

For immediate release: The Baker-Polito Administration and Secretary Kennealy made several announcements pertaining to the State of MA's reopening process and sector-specific guidance.



PRESS RELEASE: February 25, 2021

Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretary Kennealy made several announcements pertaining to the state's reopening process and sector specific guidance. These include:

1. **Phase 3, Step 2: Effective March 1, 2021**, the Commonwealth will move forward into Phase 3, Step 2. This will reopen:
 - Indoor performance venues such as concert halls, theaters, and other indoor performance spaces
 - o Open at 50% capacity with 500 person maximum
 - Indoor recreational activities with greater potential for contact: laser tag, roller skating, trampolines, obstacle courses
 - o Open at 50% capacity
2. **Updated Capacity Limits: Effective March 1, 2021**, the following industries will increase to 50% capacity.

Employees will be exempt from capacity restrictions in **all** of these industries:

- o Arcades & Other Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Businesses
- o Close Contact Personal Services
- o Driving and Flight Schools
- o Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- o Golf Facilities (indoor)

- Libraries
- Operators of Lodging (common spaces)
- Museums, Cultural & Historic Facilities, Guided Tours
- Office Spaces
- Places of Worship
- Sectors not Otherwise Addressed
- Theaters and Performance Venues
- Relevant EEA Industries – Youth sports spectators etc.
- *The following industries remain unaffected by capacity limits:*
 - Drive in movie theaters
 - Construction
 - Laboratories
 - Manufacturing

3. **Additional Guidance Changes:**

- **Effective March 1, 2021,** Restaurants will no longer be subject to a % seated capacity limit and their capacity is limited only by the requirement of 6 feet between tables
 - Musical performances allowed in restaurants (with appropriate distancing)
 - 90 minute time limit on tables ***stays in place***
 - Limit of no more than 6 per table ***stays in place***
 - Food courts ***remain closed***
- **Effective March 1, 2021,** Fitting rooms may open in all retail businesses

4. **Gatherings Limit: Effective March 22, 2021,** subject to public health data, the gatherings limit will increase for event venues and public settings, but **will stay the same in private settings***:

- **Event Venues and Public Settings:**
 - 100 indoors
 - 150 outdoors

- ***Private Settings (such as private residences):**

- o 10 indoors

- o 25 outdoors

5. **Phase 4, Step 1: Effective March 22, 2021, subject to public health data, the Commonwealth will move into Phase 4, Step 1:**

- Indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas and ballparks will reopen with a **12%** capacity limit
 - o A large venue is defined as a having a capacity of 5,000 or more
 - o Venues with capacity under 5,000 are subject to the Indoor and Outdoor Performance Venue guidance
 - o Large venues will be required to submit a safety plan to the Department of Public Health
- Overnight Camps will be allowed to open for Summer 2021
- Exhibition and Convention Halls may reopen, subject to gathering limits and event rules
- Dance floors may open at weddings and events *only*
- All other Phase 4 industries **will not** be able to open until a future reopening step. Those include:
 - o Road races, street festivals, and parades, and fairs
 - o Amusement parks, theme parks, outdoor water parks
 - o Indoor water parks and indoor / outdoor ball pits
 - o Saunas, hot-tubs, steam rooms at fitness centers, health clubs, and other facilities
 - o Beer gardens / breweries / wineries / distilleries
 - o Bars, dance clubs, and nightclubs—venues offering entertainment, beverages, or dancing and not providing seated food service

Updated guidance can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening

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